

Scruton News

Scruton Parish Council

Oct. 2020



www.scruton.net

Christmas Card Flyer

A separate flyer about the village Christmas Card has been delivered to every household in the parish with this newsletter. Look for the white envelope – **it is not junk mail, please do not throw it away!**

The sale of cards and collection of your signed greetings to be shared with the village will be organised differently this year. The enclosed flyer has all the details and includes a copy of the Christmas card image. There is an order form, should you wish to purchase any packs of cards and space to write your Christmas greeting, which you may return to Joan Walker (01609 748 456), along with any payment/donation. **Please read all the details in the flyer.**



Nature Notes

By Andy Johnston

With dusk falling earlier, now is a good time to see tawny owls sitting at high points in the village as they contest for winter territories by hooting. There are regular sightings of a barn owl sitting on posts between Fence Dyke Lane and The Grange.

Many of you may have noticed the absence of blackbirds lately. After breeding and moulting they migrate to the south and west of England but will gradually return during October to be met by blackbirds that have nested in Scandinavia and winter in Britain. Fortunately this year has been a good one for hips, haws and rowan berries, so there is plenty of food for the impending flocks of redwings and fieldfares.



Recently Harry Fawcett found a large dark caterpillar on his lawn which looks like that of an elephant hawkmoth. If any of you have interesting nature experiences, please would you let me know so I can share them here.

Thankful Village Fireworks

The annual village firework display will go ahead this year, but with a new format to ensure Covid-19 safety.



The fireworks, celebrating Scruton's special status as a 'Thankful Village', will be on Saturday 7th November at 7 pm (weather permitting). So that everyone may enjoy the spectacle from the comfort of their own home or garden, fireworks will be synchronised from 3 separate locations around the village. A 'Just Giving' page will be set up for donations (details to follow) and any proceeds will be divided equally between SPFA, St Radegund's Church and the Firework Fund. For details contact Mark Gatenby, 07715 421 588.



Farming News

by Malcolm Barker

There is an old Russian proverb which states, *'If you are going to die of starvation, it will be at Easter'*. Why am I telling you this cheery news in the autumn of 2020? Well, the answer is simple. The crop yields this summer have been poor to average at best. In a normal year imports would fill the ensuing shortages but after the New Year it is possible that Brexit may cause a bottleneck at the ports leading to shortages on the shelves.

Why again am I telling you this now? The answer is that if each of you in your own households keep buying extra *non perishable* foods week by week to build a stock up now, then your families should be able to eat if the supermarket shelves again become depleted. Please **do not panic buy** but just keep putting away a few extra tins or bags of flour for example and top up your freezer with the perishable items.

It may be that our Government agrees trade deals which result in the nation having plentiful food supplies through until next harvest but the best insurance is **to be prepared**.

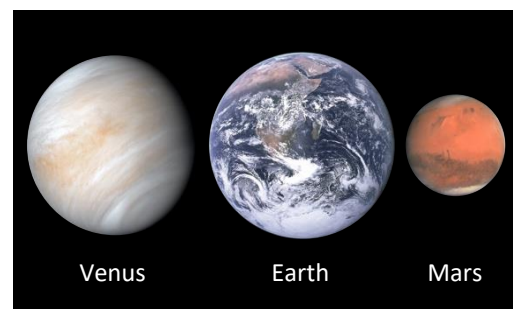


Scruton Sky at Night

by Peter Williams

The planet Mars is very well placed for most of the month, high up in the evening sky to the south around midnight. It will be at its closest to Earth on the 6th October, and will not be this close for another 15 years. All 3 spacecraft, which are currently heading to Mars, are making good progress.

Venus is also a very bright object this month, rising several hours before the sun. There has been a lot of interest in the planet recently with the discovery of phosphine gas in its atmosphere around 50km high. This gas is usually associated with life on earth, and with no other current reason for its discovery on Venus, this has led to the interesting possibility of microbe life there, floating in the clouds.



Remember that British Summer Time ends on 25th October and the clocks go back 1 hour, meaning darker evening skies.

Scruton Potato Challenge Weigh In Results

On a wet and Covid-19 restricted day in early September, Scruton Allotment Association held this year's potato 'weigh-in'. There were 24 entries ranging from 0.2 to 3.9 kg of potatoes grown from just one tuber.

The junior section was especially well supported this year and the top 3 prize winners were: Angus Corcoran (First), Mauri Corcoran (Second) and Megan Smart (Third). Well done to everyone who took part!

The Scruton Allotments website:

www.scrutonallotments.org.uk is now long overdue for an update and we are working on this. We aim to have tips for growing vegetables, including how to maximize crops of potatoes grown in a bag, ready for next year's challenge!

From the Rectory

By Revd. Jenni Lane

To quote Pam Ayres: 'I'm bouncing with the thrill of life, until I watch the news' ...however, we will get through this. I have been warmed by the prayers and support everyone is continuing to offer. The churches may be continuing in a form which is not necessarily comfortable, but it is the people who make a church, not the building. I would encourage you to take heart.

We have been celebrating the blessings of harvest both outdoors and indoors and this has helped people focus on the positive aspects of our lives: autumn is here, the harvest has been gathered and the fruits and beauty of creation continue despite the news! As Pam also wrote: 'We'll all get through the crisis and be back to join our mates. Just hoping I'm not far too wide to fit through the flaming gates!'

If anyone is in need, or wants specific prayers, contact me on 01609 631122.

St Radegund's Church

Thank you to everyone who made donations for Hambleton Foodshare. The organisers were very grateful.

Church Services - Upcoming services at St Radegund's Church (all Covid-19 secure, starting at 9:30 am) are:

4 Oct.	Morning Worship
11 Oct.	Holy Communion
18 Oct.	Holy Communion
25 Oct.	Morning Worship
1 Nov.	Morning Worship

No Dogs Please – More dog faeces have been found in the churchyard. The mess left behind is disrespectful to those buried there, to the relatives who tend their graves and to the team who keep our churchyard beautiful.

Victorian Culvert

from Andrew Stubbs

The pictures below show a Victorian culvert running through our part of the parkland. It was built by hand with interlocking tiles (we have it easy today with mechanical excavators, etc!). The culvert bypasses the old open gutter, which you can see traces of in the field, and empties into Crow Wood. When we bought the land we piped in a stretch that was collapsed. It wasn't built to carry the weight of modern machinery, so we now have to pipe in the last 6 ft to a tank in the field.



From the Parish Council

Scruton parish council are dealing with matters by email but met in an emergency session on 9 September to comply with their statutory obligations. Further council meetings will not be scheduled until Covid-19 restrictions are lifted.

The parish council are promoting the possibility of placing traffic mirrors at two locations - the exit of Fence Dyke Lane onto Fencote Road and at Silver Street corner. The council is awaiting a response from NYCC Highways.

Garage Space Wanted

David Graham is looking for some local garage space for a partially restored old MG Midget. If you can help, please call David on 07905 083 746.

A Story for Halloween

by Malcolm Barker

One night in March 2009 a strange occurrence happened to me. I was ploughing late in readiness for sowing Spring barley and had intended to work until 10.30pm. As I was turning the tractor at one end of the field and preparing to drop the plough into the ground for the next furrows, I became aware that something or someone was holding me back. I felt as if two hands were pressing against my chest but I could see no one in front of me, just the front of the tractor and the field illuminated by the tractor lights receding into the darkness beyond. I was actually feeling the pressure however and an overwhelming sense that I should stop ploughing and walk home to get my metal detector. This was happening in a part of the field where I had found an Edward III groat a few years ago, and was probably why I thought about the detector. Returning with the detector and using the lights of the tractor, I started to search and quickly picked up a signal. I then dug to reveal a silver penny, which I later found to have been minted between 1148 and 1152.

If I ever doubt that I had this strange experience, I just take a look at the silver penny (shown below).



Parish Council Meetings 2020

All Parish Council meetings are suspended until further notice.

Do you have any items for Scruton News?

Please email: stephen.elmer@scruton.net

The deadline for the next edition is 23 Oct.

The editor reserves the right to make changes for editorial purposes.

Scruton Parish Council

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